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DOUBLE DRAGON
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STAN LEE PRESENTS:

ENTER THE DOUBLE DRAGON

HER NAME IS MARIAN STEELE. SHE IS OLIGOPOLIS'S BEST UNDERCOVER POLICE OFFICER, ON THE ASSIGNMENT OF A LIFETIME.
OLIGOPOLIS WAS ONCE A THRIVING METROPOLIS. NOW IT WITHERS UNDER A SHADOW OF CORRUPTION. OLIGOPOLIS'S MANY EVILS FLOW FROM A SINGLE SOURCE, THE CRIME LORD KNOWN ONLY AS NIGHTFALL.
AGAINST ALL ODDS, OFFICER STEELE PENETRATED NIGHTFALL'S ORGANIZATION, AMASSING THE EVIDENCE THAT THE CITY NEEDS TO END HIS REIGN.
THEN SHE TRIED TO LEAVE...

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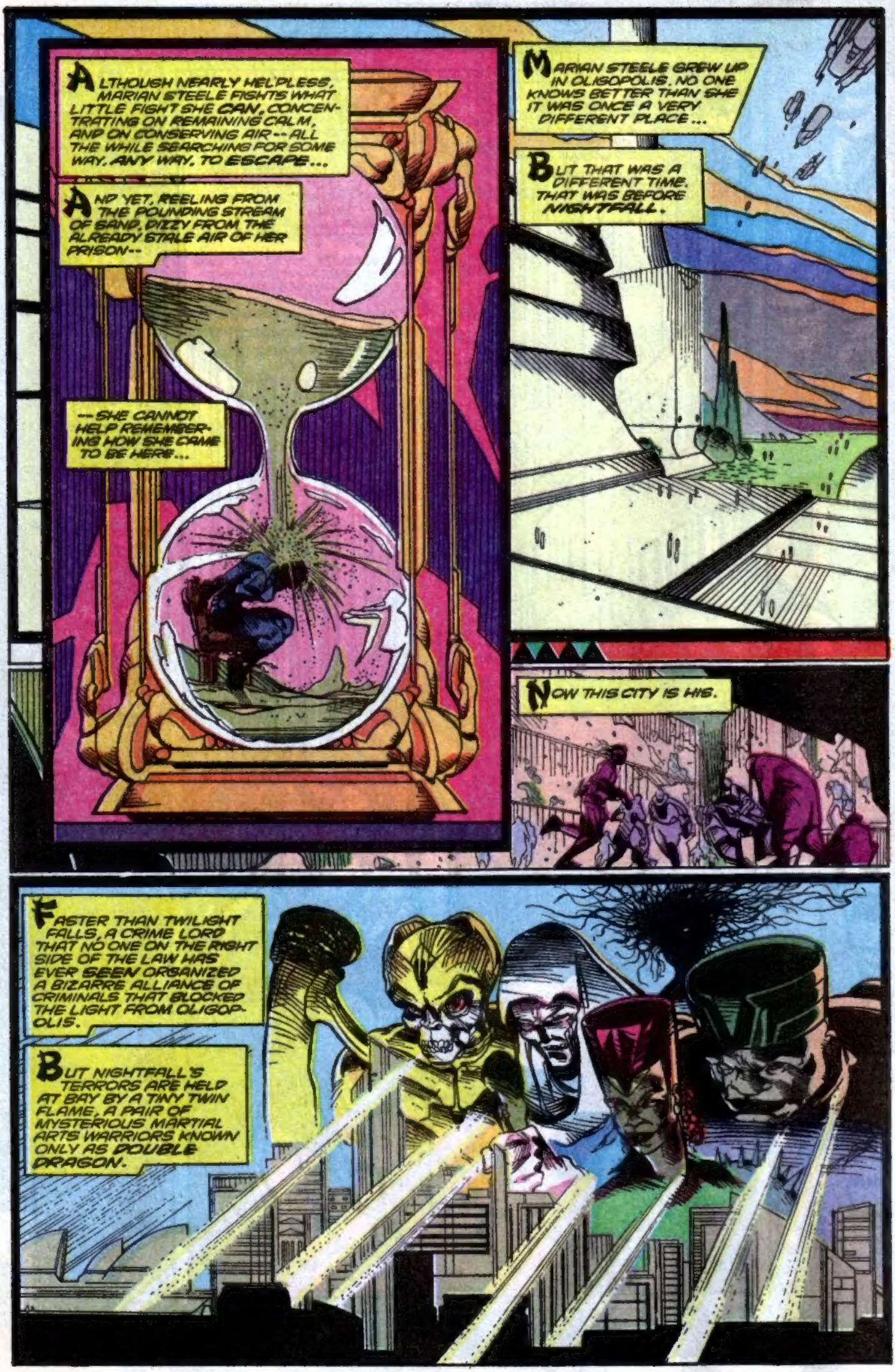
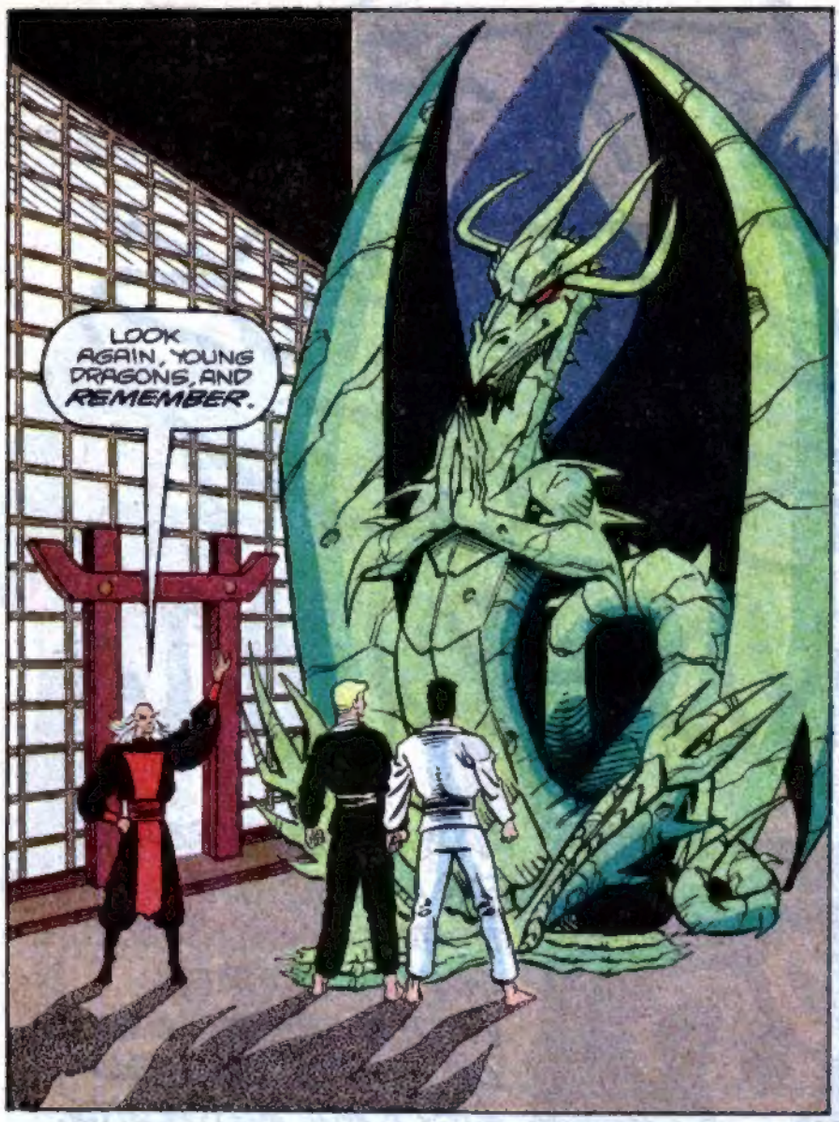

ALTHOUGH NEARLY HELPLESS, MARIAN STEELE FIGHTS WHAT LITTLE FIGHT SHE CAN, CONCENTRATING ON REMAINING CALM, AND ON CONSERVING AIR -- ALL THE WHILE SEARCHING FOR SOME WAY, ANY WAY, TO ESCAPE...
AND YET, REELING FROM THE POUNDING STREAM OF SAND, DIZZY FROM THE ALREADY STALE AIR OF HER PRISON--
--SHE CANNOT HELP REMEMBERING HOW SHE CAME TO BE HERE...
MARIAN STEELE GREW UP IN OLIGOPOLIS. NO ONE KNOWS BETTER THAN SHE IT WAS ONCE A VERY DIFFERENT PLACE...
BUT THAT WAS A DIFFERENT TIME. THAT WAS BEFORE NIGHTFALL.
NOW THIS CITY IS HIS.
FASTER THAN TWILIGHT FALLS, A CRIME LORD THAT NO ONE ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE LAW HAS EVER SEEN ORGANIZED A BIZARRE ALLIANCE OF CRIMINALS THAT BLOCKED THE LIGHT FROM OLIGOPOLIS.
BUT NIGHTFALL'S TERRORS ARE HELD AT BAY BY A TINY TWIN FLAME, A PAIR OF MYSTERIOUS MARTIAL ARTS WARRIORS KNOWN ONLY AS DOUBLE DRAGON.

WHILE WORKING UNDERCOVER TRYING TO UNMASK NIGHTFALL, MARIAN STEELE INADVERTENTLY SOLVED ANOTHER MYSTERY, THE SECRET OF DOUBLE DRAGON.
OVER TIME, SHE BECAME VERY CLOSE TO BOTH OF THEM. IF SHE HADN'T BEEN SO INVOLVED IN HER UNDERCOVER ASSIGNMENT, THINGS MIGHT HAVE BECOME ... COMPLICATED.
FROM HER PRECARIOUS POSITION IN NIGHTFALL'S ORGANIZATION, SHE USED A GROUP OF CHILDREN TO PASS INFORMATION TO THE DRAGONS. THE DRAGONS RESPONDED BY FOILING AN ANNOYINGLY LARGE NUMBER OF NIGHTFALL'S PLANS.
STILL, HER EFFORTS ADDED UP TO VERY LITTLE, UNTIL TODAY. TODAY SHE FOUND THE LEDGER. INSIDE ARE THE NAMES OF EVERY CITY OFFICIAL ACCEPTING MONETARY FAVORS FROM NIGHTFALL.
THIS LITTLE BOOK IS THE END OF NIGHTFALL. ONCE THE COMMISSIONER GETS HIS HANDS ON THIS--
OFFICER STEELE!
I BELIEVE YOU HAVE SOME OF NIGHTFALL'S PROPERTY...
SO MUCH FOR MY COVER.

BACK OFF, SUPERLUMINAL! I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO USE THIS.
HONEY--
--YOU DON'T HAVE TIME.
AAGH!
JORDON, LOOK! HE'S GOT MISS STEELE.
YEAH, MIKE, WE ALL GOT EYES.
AND "WHEELS" TOO. LET'S USE 'EM.
DON'T WORRY, MISS STEELE. WE'LL BE BACK WITH HELP AS SOON AS WE CAN.
IF I THOUGHT OTHERWISE, CHILD, YOU WOULDN'T LEAVE HERE ALIVE.

THE CHILDREN ARRIVED AT THE DRAGON HOUSE HEADQUARTERS SHORTLY THEREAFTER...
SENSEI! WHERE'RE BILLY AND JIMMY?
OOPS!
IN THE DOJO, ANN, IMMERSED, I WOULD HOPE, IN STUDIES. DO YOU INTEND TO INTERRUPT THEIR WORK AS WELL?
MARIAN IS IN TROUBLE, SENSEI. SHE NEEDS THE DRAGONS.
THEN YOUR HASTE IS WARRANTED.
LET US JOIN THEM.
RAD
BILLY! JIMMY!
HEY, GUYS.
COULDN'T THIS HAVE WAITED UNTIL WE'RE DONE PRACTICING?
YOU KNOW HOW JIM GETS ABOUT STUFF SOMETIMES.
WE HAVE NOT YET COMPLETED OUR KATA, BILL.
SEE?
TEND TO THE TASK MOST IN NEED, JIMMY. ORDER WITHOUT PRIORITY IS NO BETTER THAN CHAOS.
YEAH, WHAT HE SAID.
SUPERLUMINAL GOT MARIAN.

WHAT?!!
YEAH. HE ALMOST GOT US TOO!
YOU GUYS GOT AWAY FROM SUPERLUMINAL? NO WAY! HE'S GOT SUPER-SPEED POWERS.
HE MUST HAVE ALLOWED THEM TO ESCAPE, IN ORDER TO LURE US BACK TO HIM. IT IS SURELY A TRAP.
RIGHT. LET'S GO.
DOUBLE DRAGON?
I DON'T SEE ANY OTHER WAY.
THEN LET US BEGIN.
NOT HERE--
--IN THE DRAGON'S LAIR.
WHY, SENSEI?
TO REACH YOUR END, YOU MUST ALWAYS KEEP SIGHT OF YOUR BEGINNINGS.

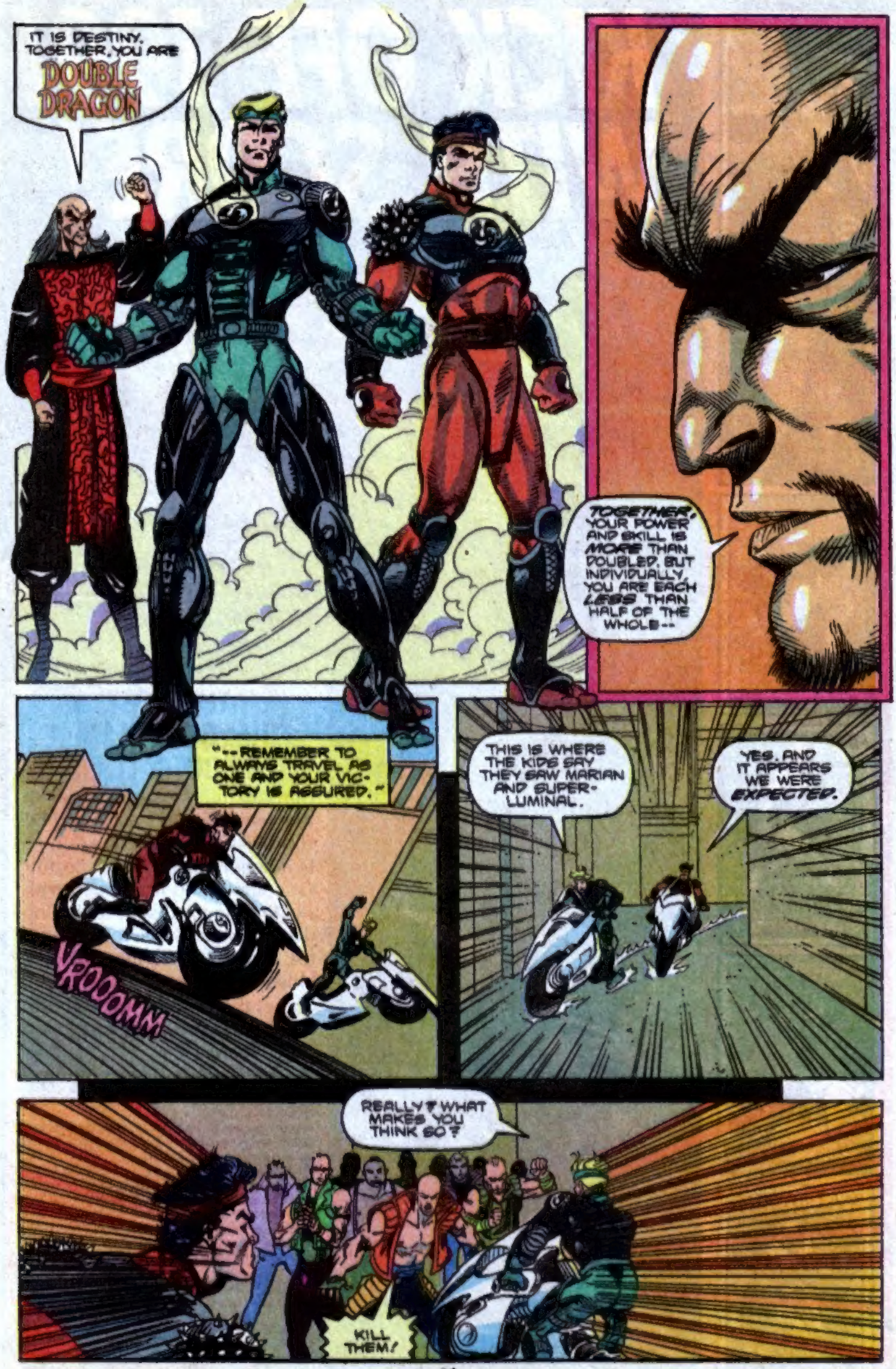

LOOK AGAIN, YOUNG DRAGONS, AND *REMEMBER*.

THE WAY OF THE DRAGON IS THE WAY OF THE SPIRIT.

THE FORCE WITHIN ME IS THE FORCE OF LIFE ITSELF. ONLY A CHOSEN FEW ARE EVER BLESSED WITH KNOWLEDGE OF THE *DRAGON FORCE*. PERHAPS ONE IN A GENERATION, PERHAPS LESS.

YOU TWO ARE *SPECIAL*. TWIN BROTHERS. TWO YET ONE. YIN AND YANG. LIGHT AND DARK. IN OPPOSITION, YET IN PERFECT HARMONY.

WILLIAM AND JAMES LEE, YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO BE THE GUARDIANS OF THE DRAGON FORCE.
IN RETURN, THE POWER OF THE DRAGON FORCE IS YOURS TO CALL UPON. BUT BE *WARNED*, YOU MUST REMAIN IN HARMONY. IF YOU SHOULD LOSE THIS BALANCE, IF EITHER SIDE BECOMES TOO STRONG, THE WHOLE SUFFERS...AND MAY EVEN BE *DESTROYED*.


IT IS DESTINY. TOGETHER, YOU ARE DOUBLE DRAGON
TOGETHER, YOUR POWER AND SKILL IS MORE THAN DOUBLED. BUT INDIVIDUALLY, YOU ARE EACH LESS THAN HALF OF THE WHOLE--
"--REMEMBER TO ALWAYS TRAVEL AS ONE AND YOUR VICTORY IS ASSURED."
VROOOMM
THIS IS WHERE THE KIDS SAY THEY SAW MARIAN AND SUPER-LUMINAL.
YES. AND IT APPEARS WE WERE EXPECTED.
REALLY? WHAT MAKES YOU THINK SO?
KILL THEM!

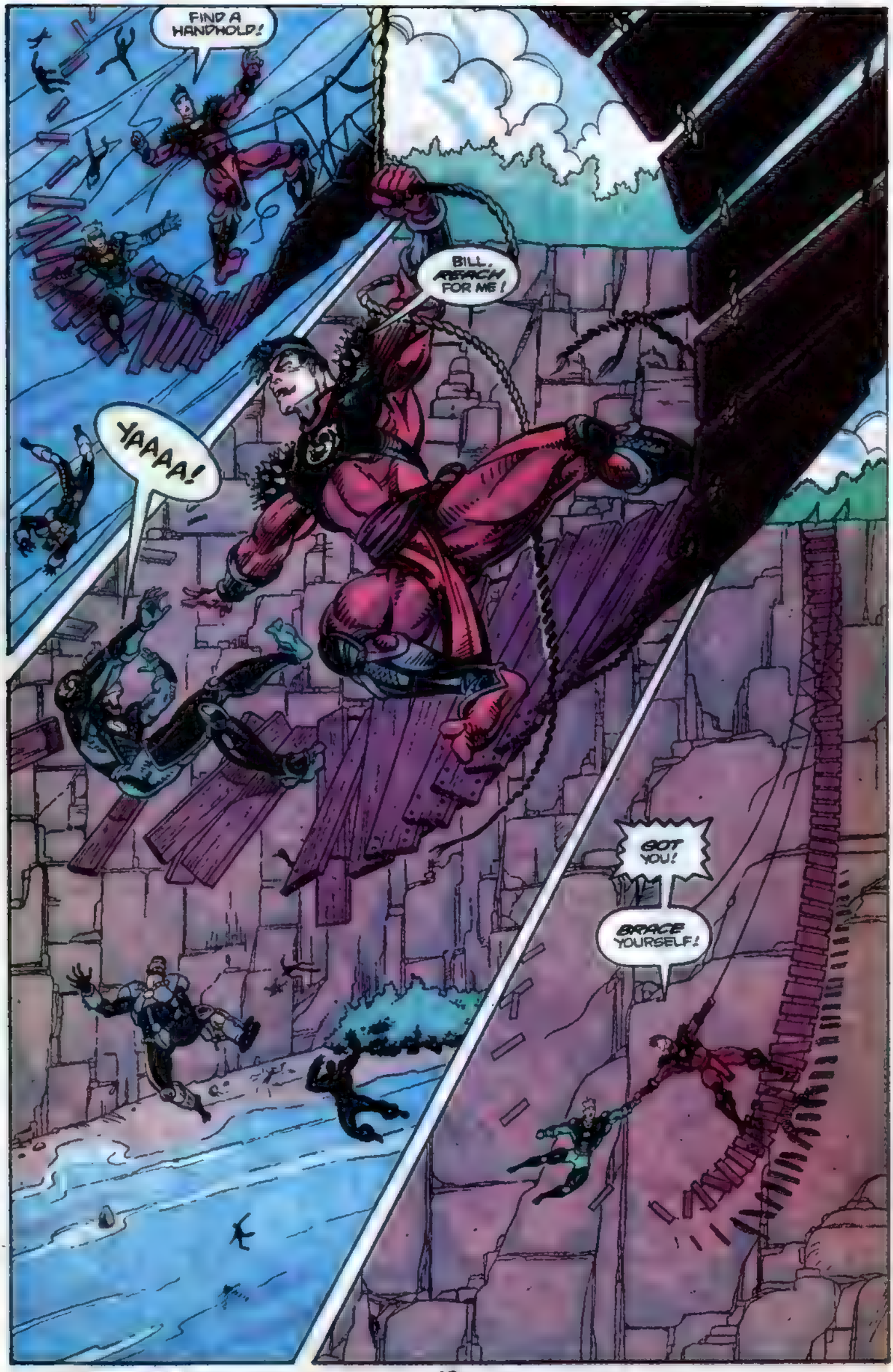
PARDON ME, COMING THROUGH.
OW!
CHOK
WHUDD
WHUFF!
HEY, JIM! WHERE ARE YOU?
I AM SECURING MY VEHICLE.
SECURING YOUR VEHICLE?
WHUDD
I KNEW I FORGOT TO DO SOMETHING...
WHUNK
WHAK
KRAK
IT SEEMS TO HAVE WORKED OUT FOR THE BEST. DID YOU NOTICE THE FIRE ESCAPE?
YEAH, AND I SEE THE OPEN WINDOW TOO. WANT TO GIVE IT A CLOSER LOOK?
THERE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE HOLDING US HERE.
KLUD
WHUMP

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR CLEARING THAT UP, JIM.
CURB YOUR RECKLESSNESS, BILL. WE DO NOT WISH TO ENDANGER MARIAN.
LEGERDEMAIN!
I'M FLATTERED THAT YOU REMEMBER ME.
GIVE ME ONE GOOD REASON I SHOULDN'T CLEAN YOUR CLOCK!
EXCELLENT CHOICE OF WORDS. HERE'S ONE.
LOOK OUT! IT'S SOME KIND OF WEAPON!
I DO NOT THINK SO--
--THOUGH I CONFESS I DO NOT UNDERSTAND ITS SIGNIFICANCE.
YOU WILL...

NO!
I UNDERSTAND YOU GENTLEMEN ARE LOOKING FOR MARIAN STEELE...?
THAT'S IT, LEGERDEMAIN! I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOUR GAMES...
OH, BUT YOU DO! THE SMALL HOURGLASS IS IN SYNC WITH THE LARGE ONE. WHEN IT'S OUT OF TIME, SO IS SHE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I WANT TO TELL YOU WHERE YOUR FRIEND IS. SO, WHAT DO YOU SAY?
--YOU CAN EITHER TAKE ME IN...
..OR GO GET HER.
I WILL END THIS NOW!
WAIT, JIM.
ALL RIGHT, LEGERDEMAIN. TELL US WHERE SHE IS.

SHORTLY...
THERE'S THE GORGE, JUST UP AHEAD.
THE BRIDGE MAY NOT SUPPORT THE WEIGHT OF THE BIKES.
NOT WITH ALL THOSE GUYS ON IT.
ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS TO WHOEVER KILLS EITHER OF THEM!
I SUGGEST WE DIVIDE THEM MORE EVENLY.
I GOT THE LEADER, JIM, YOU TAKE THE REST OF 'EM.
KRAK
YOU HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE OF HUMOR.
ARRGH!
THEN WHY DO I ALLOW YOU TO ACCOMPANY ME?
HEH HEH!

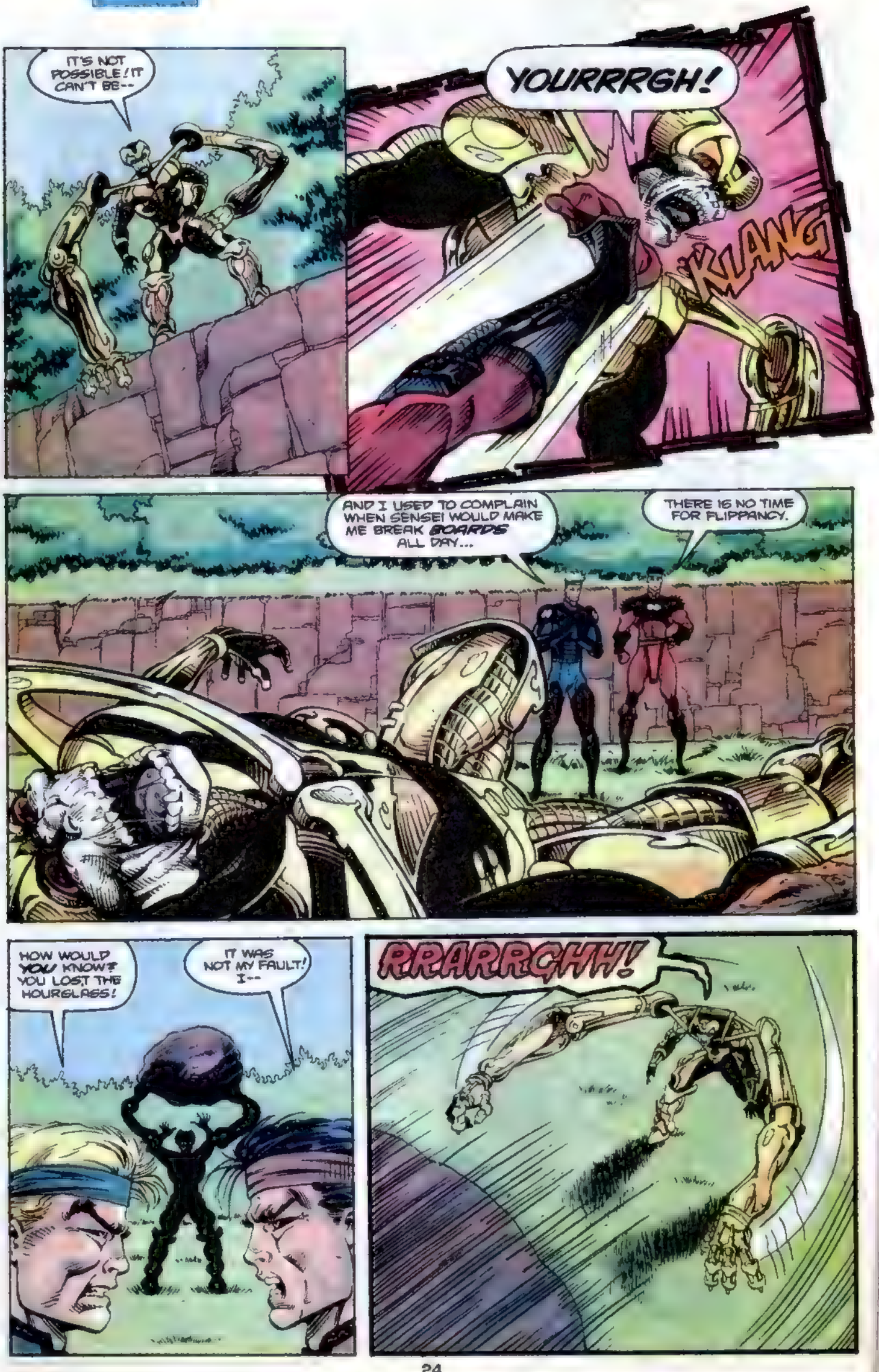
WHAT'RE YOU LAUGHING AT?
WHUDD
OOF!
UFF!
I BELIEVE HE WAS AMUSED BY MY SMALL JOKE AT YOUR EXPENSE.
WHUNK
THOK
MURRGH!
WHOOFF!
WHUDD
AW, WHAT DOES HE KNOW? HE LIKES "KNOCK KNOCK" JOKES.
DO I GET A HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR EACH OF THEM, OR IS IT FOR THE SET? OH, WELL...
BILL! LOOK OUT!
HUH?
BWAKOOM

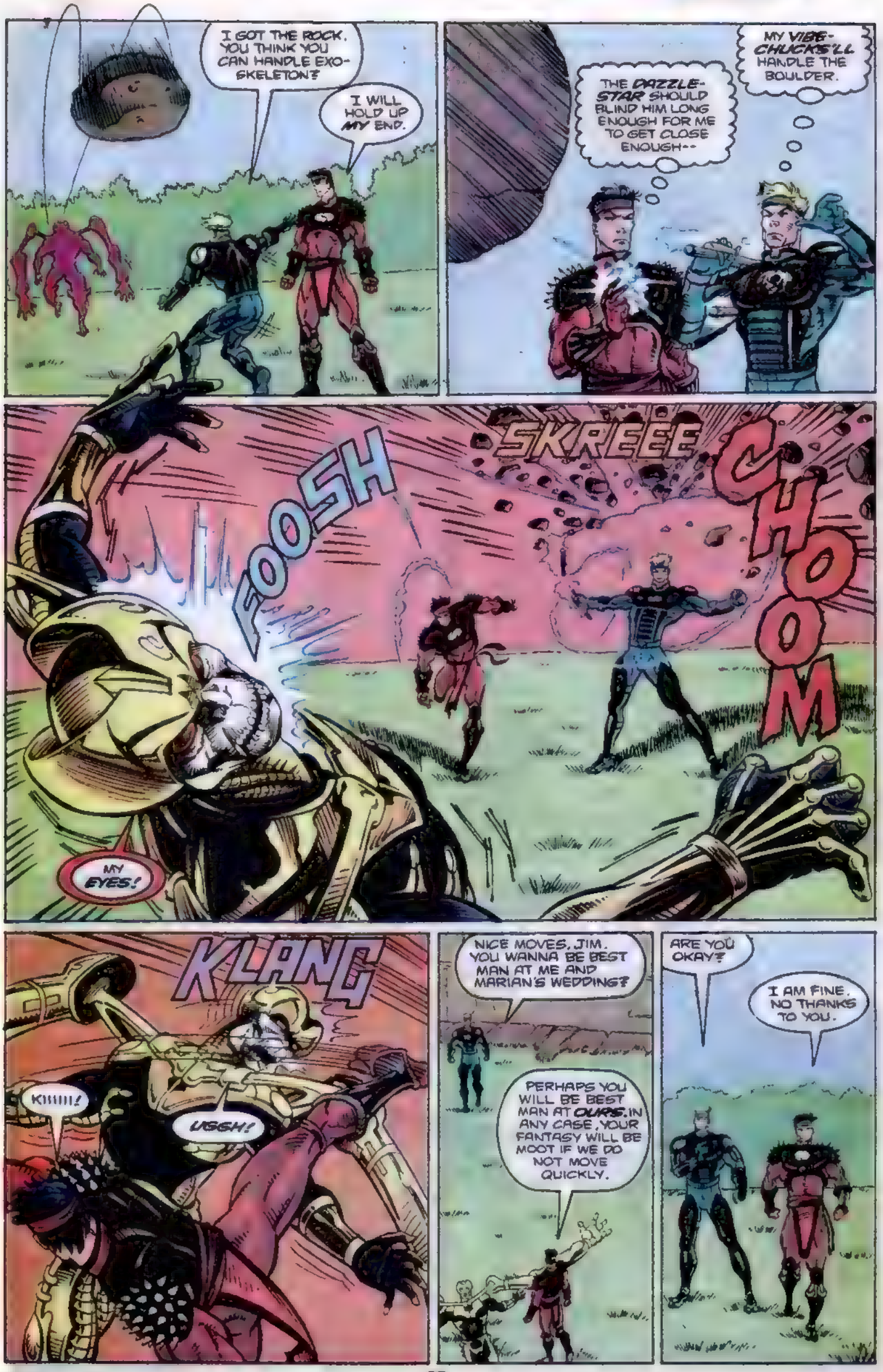

FIND A HANDHOLD!
BILL, REACH FOR ME!
YAAAA!
GOT YOU!
BRACE YOURSELF!

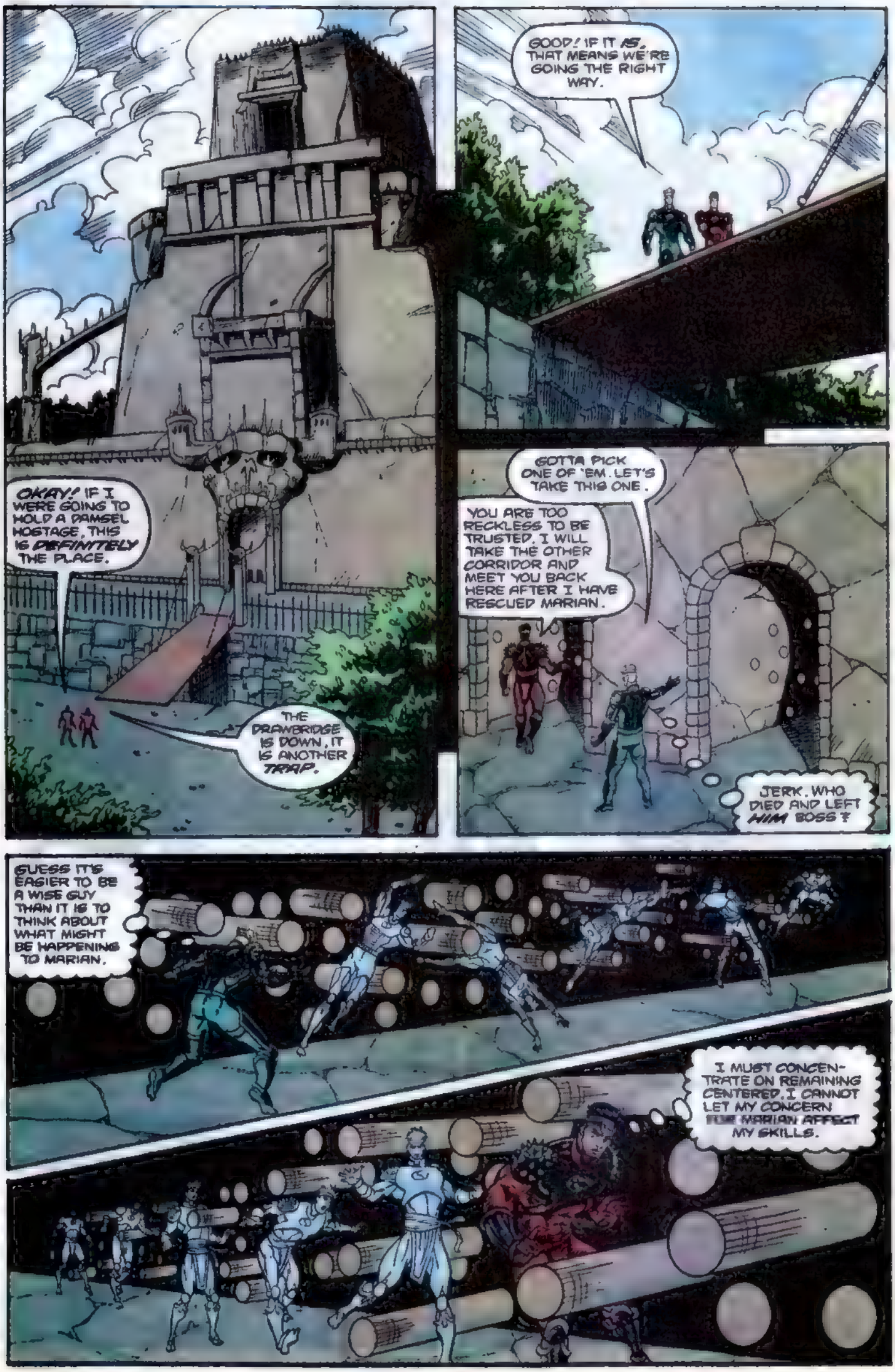
WHAM
UNNH!
YOU OKAY?
I COULD BE WORSE, THANKS.
MORE THAN HALF THE SAND IS GONE.
C'MON THEN, DOUBLE-TIME! MARIAN'S DEPENDING ON US.

THE DRAGONS STILL LIVE!
THEY ARE FORMIDABLE FOES, BUT EVEN THEY ARE NO MATCH FOR THE POWER OF EXO-SKELETON!
NO! THE HOUR-GLASS--!
NEVER MIND THAT, LOOK UP THERE--!
SOMEBODY'S HOLDING UP THE WHOLE BRIDGE WITH HIS BARE HANDS!
THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE!
DIE, DOUBLE DRAGONS!
HE WAS DOING JUST FINE UNTIL YOU TOLD HIM IT WASN'T POSSIBLE...!

I CANNOT HOLD ON MUCH LONGER. IF I COULD ONLY FIND A HANDHOLD.
HAND-HOLD? GIMME A SEC...
KIIIIIII!
KKKRUNCH
HANDHOLD.
KIIII!
KRUNCH
KIII!
KRUNCH
KIII!
KRUNCH
KIII!
KRUNCH
WHAT'S THAT NOISE?


IT'S NOT POSSIBLE! IT CAN'T BE--
YOURRRGH!
KLANG
AND I USED TO COMPLAIN WHEN SENSEI WOULD MAKE ME BREAK BOARDS ALL DAY...
THERE IS NO TIME FOR FLIPPANCY.
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW? YOU LOST THE HOURGLASS!
IT WAS NOT MY FAULT! I--
RRARRGHH!


I GOT THE ROCK. YOU THINK YOU CAN HANDLE EXO-SKELETON?
I WILL HOLD UP MY END.
THE DAZZLE-STAR SHOULD BLIND HIM LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO GET CLOSE ENOUGH--
MY VIBE-CHUCKS'LL HANDLE THE BOULDER.
FOOSH
SKREEE
CHOOM
MY EYES!
KLANG
KIIIIII!
UGGH!
NICE MOVES, JIM. YOU WANNA BE BEST MAN AT ME AND MARIAN'S WEDDING?
PERHAPS YOU WILL BE BEST MAN AT OURS. IN ANY CASE, YOUR FANTASY WILL BE MOOT IF WE DO NOT MOVE QUICKLY.
ARE YOU OKAY?
I AM FINE. NO THANKS TO YOU.


GOOD! IF IT *IS*, THAT MEANS WE'RE GOING THE RIGHT WAY.
OKAY! IF I WERE GOING TO HOLD A DAMSEL HOSTAGE, THIS IS *DEFINITELY* THE PLACE.
THE DRAWBRIDGE IS DOWN, IT IS ANOTHER *TRAP*.
GOTTA PICK ONE OF 'EM. LET'S TAKE THIS ONE.
YOU ARE TOO RECKLESS TO BE TRUSTED. I WILL TAKE THE OTHER CORRIDOR AND MEET YOU BACK HERE AFTER I HAVE RESCUED MARIAN.
JERK. WHO DIED AND LEFT *HIM* BOSS?
GUESS IT'S EASIER TO BE A WISE GUY THAN IT IS TO THINK ABOUT WHAT MIGHT BE HAPPENING TO MARIAN.
I MUST CONCENTRATE ON REMAINING CENTERED. I CANNOT LET MY CONCERN FOR MARIAN AFFECT MY SKILLS.

MADE IT! I WONDER WHAT'S N--
I MUST NOT RELAX MY GUARD. THERE ARE VERY LIKELY--
SHADOW WARRIORS!
SMAK
URRRK!
WHOOF!
WHUD
I WAS TOO SLOW, THEY CAUGHT ME FROM BEHIND--!
WHUNK
WHUD
KRAK
WHAK
I'M WINDED! PUSHED MYSELF TOO HARD ON THE OBSTACLE COURSE.
KRAK
I WAS FOOLISH TO SPLIT UP. I CANNOT WATCH MY OWN FLANK...
WHUD

GOTTA KEEP GOING, FOR MARIAN'S SAKE. I CAN'T LET THEM BEAT ME.
NO! THE SENSEI PROMISED US THAT OUR VICTORY WAS ASSURED.
OF COURSE! SENSEI SAID IF WE TRAVELED AS ONE, WE WOULD WIN. HOPE I REMEMBER HOW TO GET THAT DRAGON FORCE THING GOING.
I HAVE BEEN FOOLISH! ONLY TOGETHER ARE WE DOUBLE DRAGON. IF THERE IS STILL TIME I MUST CALL ON THE DRAGON FORCE.
BRA-KOOM
OUR RIVALRY COULD HAVE LED TO THE DEATH OF NOT ONLY OURSELVES, BUT ALSO TO THAT OF THE OBJECT OF OUR AFFECTION.
YOU SAID A MOUTHFUL. LOOK!

MARIAN!
NO!
KRRASH
MARIAN! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
GASP HUH HUH
HUH HUH THE EVIDENCE... GET... MY PURSE.
HERE IT IS.
OH, NO. THE LEDGER'S GONE! AND NIGHTFALL IS LONG GONE. ALL THIS WAS FOR NOTHING!
AT LEAST YOU'RE ALIVE.
MARIAN, WHAT...?
OKAY, IT WAS A BANAL THING TO SAY. I DON'T THINK IT CALLS FOR GUNPLAY.
BLAM
KLANK

GOOD SHOT, MARIAN.
IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN NECESSARY, IF YOU HAD CHECKED ON THE SHADOW WARRIORS WHILE I FREED HER.
KRAK
I'M TIRED OF YOU ACTING LIKE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CARES ABOUT HER. LET'S SETTLE IT HERE AND NOW!
AGREED! AND TO THE VICTOR, HER HAND!
KIII!
ARE YOU GUYS NUTS? I'M NOT SOME PRIZE FOR YOU TWO TO FIGHT OVER. I--
OHHH!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
ARRGH!
IT WAS SENSEI, CONTACTING US THROUGH THE DRAGON FORCE. THIS WHOLE THING WAS A RED HERRING.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
NIGHTFALL WAS JUST DISTRACTING US. HE HAS DRAWN US AWAY IN ORDER TO STEAL THE SOURCE OF OUR POWERS, THE DRAGON STATUE ITSELF!
WITH THE POWER OF THE DRAGON ADDED TO HIS OWN, NIGHTFALL WILL BE UNSTOPPABLE.
AND IF HE CONTROLS THE DRAGON FORCE, WE MAY BE POWERLESS TO STOP HIM.
THEN HE'S FINALLY WON. OLIGOPOLIS BELONGS TO NIGHTFALL!
NEXT: DOUBLE JEOPARDY